

Border Eagle

Vol. 52, No. 20

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

May 21, 2004

Laughlin welcomes new top doc

By Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Staff writer

Col. Laura Torres-Reyes took command of the 47th Medical Group from Col. Charles K. Hardin in a change-of-command ceremony May 14 at Club XL.

Prior to coming here, Colonel Torres-Reyes was the deputy commander, 9th Medical Group, Beale Air Force Base, Calif., for two years and recently deployed as commander of the 380th Expedition Medical Group. Prior to that, she commanded the 78th Aerospace Medical Squadron, Robins AFB, Ga.

The colonel also commanded humanitarian operations to five villages in Guatemala in September 2002, and her team set a Southern Command record for treating 7,806 patients in nine days.

Although this isn't her first assignment as a commander, Colonel Torres-Reyes looks forward to work-



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi

Col. Keith Traster hands the guidon and leadership of the 47th Medical Group to Col. Laura Torres-Reyes during a change-of-command ceremony May 14 at Club XL.

ing with Laughlin members and making a difference here. "The best thing I love about my job is that I can make a difference," she said. "The ability

to make a difference in people's lives and implement changes for good is a

See **Med Group**, page 4

U.S. preps for Iraq sovereignty

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The U.S. government is taking steps to be ready for the transition of sovereignty to Iraq on June 30, government officials told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said their departments are doing what they can to prepare for life after the Coalition Provisional Authority goes away.

Mr. Armitage said the coalition has all the authority it needs to continue op-

erating in Iraq under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1511. Still, he said, the United States wants to move as rapidly as possible in getting a new U.N. Security Council Resolution regarding Iraq.

He said U.S. diplomats have met with Security Council countries and other allies and have taken their concerns under consideration. Many countries have indicated they would participate in a U.N.-sponsored force in Iraq. The United States "does not have a piece of paper to put forward," Armitage said. Instead America will await the outcome of U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's

consultations in Iraq before submitting a proposed new resolution. Brahimi is the U.N. secretary-general's special adviser for Iraq.

Mr. Armitage said newly confirmed U.S. Ambassador to Iraq John Negroponte will not report to Baghdad for some time after June 30. He said this is to signal that Negroponte is not Coalition Administrator Paul Bremer's successor, and that his posting is the beginning of a new relationship between sovereign countries. "We want to make clear occupation is over and sovereignty

See **Transfer**, page 4

Newslines

SUPT graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-09 will graduate at 10 a.m. today in Anderson Hall auditorium.

Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr., Air Education and Training Command vice commander, will be the guest speaker.

All base members are invited to attend.

DEFY graduation

A Drug Education For Youth graduation is set for 11 a.m. Saturday in the Chapel Hall Annex.

Deployed family dinner

A buffet dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday to honor the families of deployed members and returnees within the last year.

All family members, commanders and first sergeants are invited to attend.

Call 298-5327 or 298-5111 to R.S.V.P.

Cemetery cleanup

The Laughlin Top 3 is looking for volunteers to help clean up the Seminole Cemetery in Brackettville May 28.

Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Fiesta Center. There will be a barbeque lunch at the school grounds.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Sabina Wiener at 298-5607.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	26
Returning in 30 days:	22
Deploying in 30 days:	12

Mission status

(As of Tuesday)

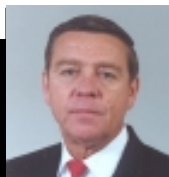
Days behind or ahead:

T-37, -9.56	T-1, 1.13
T-38, -7.13	T-6, -10.80

Mission capable rate:

T-37, 89.2%	T-1, 85.4%
T-38, 75.1%	T-6, 82.0%

‘New’ Air Force great improvement over ‘old’



Commander's Corner

By Ronald Rydzfski
47th Maintenance Directorate
T-1 division chief

While waiting for my appointment at Wilford Hall Medical Center, a young Airman sat down next to me. We started discussing the military. When he found out that I served in the United States Air Force more than 40 years, he wanted to know what the difference was between what he called the “old” Air Force and the modern Air Force. My thoughts went back to Spangdahlem, Germany, in 1961.

First and foremost on his mind was how much money did I make? I was working for \$78 a month, which included many weekends and lots of overtime. We got paid once a month. I guess \$78.00 a month sounds a lot better than \$39.00 every two weeks. I don’t intend to break it down any further.

The bad thing was you had to stand in line with more than 150 other people and have the first shirt inspect you prior to getting paid.

If you needed a haircut, shoes were not shined or your uniform was not within AFR 35-10 standards, he sent you to get it done and then you went to the back of the line. I remember a couple of times, I went through the line twice.

Second most important thing was your living quarters. For

more than 14 months, I lived in a 10-man open bay room with just a footlocker and a wall locker to store all of my personal belongings. Some people worked day shift, some midnight and others swing shift. Try dressing and undressing using just a flashlight and not making any noise that might wake someone up (especially after having a few beers at the club).

There were no microwaves or a refrigerator to keep your milk and soda cold. In the winter it was okay to put it out on the window ledge to keep it cold, but only if you lived on the second floor. No washers, no dryers. All of your clothes including underwear and socks went to the laundry or you did them yourself in the six-man open bay shower room.

After making my third stripe, I moved into a two-man room. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. It was so quiet and peaceful.

Our off-duty time was very precious to us especially on weekends. The bad thing was

that we had more than our fair share of Saturday dorm inspections in our Class A uniform. If you and your room passed inspection, you would then be able to go to the orderly room and stand

in line to get a pass to go downtown.

Of course, you had to be back on base by midnight. (Thank goodness some of us knew there was a hole in the perimeter fence that you could crawl through to get back on base after midnight.)

There were no promotion fitness exam or skills knowledge

test. Promotions were usually decided by the squadron commanders, first shirt and the “Chief” in charge of all the maintainers. If you worked hard and kept your nose clean, you hoped to get promoted. No matter who got promoted, there were always the negative comments such as, “What did he do to deserve that promotion?”, “Who did he suck up to?” and finally “He sure as heck does not deserve it.”

Now with the PFE and SKT, I remember people saying, “He doesn’t do any work, all he does is hit the books.” Either way, it is a “no win” situation when someone gets promoted.

Levi’s or jeans as they were called then could only be worn when participating in a sports function such as football or baseball. They could not be worn on base or off base as casual wear.

In today’s time, can you imagine not being able to wear jeans as casual wear?

There were also numerous TDYs. Much of our traveling was either in a C-47 “Gooney Bird” or a C-124, not the slick jets of today.

It was claimed that the Gooney Bird was the safest flying aircraft in the Air Force inventory at that time. I never did figure out why we had to wear parachutes on the safest aircraft in the inventory.

This young airman told me that his enlistment was up in two months and he was thinking about getting out. But after hearing my “war stories” as he called them and my insurmountable odds to somehow stay in the USAF for 26 years, he decided to re-enlist.

I just knew I missed my calling after over 43 years as an aircraft maintainer.

I could have become a recruiter.

Border Eagle

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Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.



Actionline
298-5351 or
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

"Training the world's best pilots and deploying expeditionary forces worldwide to fight and win America's wars ... period!"
— 47 Flying Training Wing motto

Do things right every time

By Maj. James McClellan
100th Logistics Readiness Squadron

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England – How many times have you heard someone say, "We need to do this right," or have had a supervisor counsel you on "doing the right thing"?

I have many times in my career, but it was not until recently that I took the time to find out what this often-used phrase means. Understanding the parts of the phrase, as well as the meaning behind them, is critical to being an effective leader.

Leaders need to be actively involved in their units and the first part of this phrase is all about action: "to do."

For a leader, the act of doing involves engagement with the troops, implies involvement in the key processes in the unit, and most of all, demands the leader be visible. More than likely, this means he or she must leave the comfort zone; get out from behind the desk, work a different shift and volunteer to lead additional duties.

A leader must be on point, out in front and active in the organization. But action is not enough; a leader must have a firm set of values and beliefs. This brings us to the second part of the phrase, "the right."

The right is a measure of an individual's set of values, beliefs and customs. Do you know the difference between right and wrong? Leaders are often asked to make decisions that have ethical implications. A firm foundation of institutional values and beliefs, like the Air Force core values of "integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do" should be our anchor, the foundation that leaders and followers alike require.

In an article titled "Air Force Standards and Accountability," former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman stated it best. He said, "At the very foundation of those concepts must be standards that are uniformly known, consistently applied and nonselectively enforced."

Getting to the third and final part of the phrase, "the thing" is

the actual act you are executing. This is the technical part. Leaders need to have a technical understanding of the processes they are charged to manage.

Of course, this is gained through experience and training in one's career field. I counsel the company grade officers in my unit to "walk the line." This is a phrase plucked out of my logistical experiences and refers to understanding the intricacies of fuel pipelines, valves and tanks in a typical fuels management flight. You have to walk the fuel lines to really understand how the entire system functions.

Leaders must take the time to "walk the line" every day to ensure they know their business like no other. After all, sound decisions start with a solid understanding of the thing you are doing.

The next time you say you're going to "do the right thing," think about the parts of that phrase and what it means to your followers, your unit and you. Don't let them down by not following through completely. Remember to implement the Air Force's core values at all times.

We must be fit to take over front lines

By Maj. Richard Ess
333rd Training Squadron

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – When I joined the Air Force many years ago, the 1.5-mile run was the measure of fitness for Airmen.

At the time, one of my coworkers was slightly overweight and a heavy smoker. He exercised little or not at all, but every year he'd tough it out at the run and manage to pass the test. He crossed the finish line wheezing and gasping for breath, but he made it.

Years later, the Air

Force adopted the bicycle test as its measure of fitness. That same coworker had to start exercising more often. At least for this guy, the bike test was successful, since it forced him to become more fit.

Today, we have a new, more rigorous fitness standard.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, in a series of Sight Pictures released last year, talked about the new fitness program as "preparing to meet the physical demands of our expeditionary force" and "getting fit to fight."

I recently returned from an expeditionary deployment to Iraq. To me, those words really hit home.

During the deployment, many of us had to travel to other bases in and around Baghdad. We drove in open Humvees in temperatures that soared to more than 120 degrees, keeping our weapons ready to defend the convoy.

This wasn't the time to think about getting fit.

We're an expeditionary Air Force, and we all need to be fit.

In the Air Force in which I grew up, I

always assumed I'd rely on the security forces to defend my base. That just isn't the way we do business today in a deployed environment.

All Airmen are expected to play an active role in the defense of their base.

In Baghdad, during the highest force protection conditions, Airmen, Sailors and Soldiers were all expected to take shifts at the gates. Essentially, we were on the front line.

Every Airman needs to be prepared, fit and trained to take on this role.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

A new look ...

First Lt. Stacey Lauret from Luke AFB, Ariz., answers questions about the proposed new utility uniform from Tech. Sgt. Robert Bone, 47th Operations Support Squadron, while visiting Laughlin May 14. Lieutenant Lauret toured the base to show Airmen here what the new uniform looks like. She also modeled it at the Armed Forces Day celebration Saturday at Plaza del Sol Mall in Del Rio.

Med group, from page 1

blessing, and I am very honored to have been given the opportunity.”

Apart from the medical group’s mission to provide quality and safe health care for people, the new commander said her primary goal here is packaged in what she described as the TGIF rules.

The first two rules of TGIF are taking care of people and growing leaders. “We take care of people, inside and outside of the clinic, by providing good medical service,” she said. “Growing leaders makes a mission succeed by making sure every individual is mentored and given an opportunity to achieve their leadership potential.”

Improving innovative processes and fighting for fitness are her last two rules. “We have to find a better way of doing things, and maintaining our fitness makes us better warriors,” she added.

The new commander said at this time, with personnel in the medical group deployed in support of expeditionary operations, a lot of stress is on individuals in the group due to drastically reduced manning. “My challenge is to support the group in various ways by making good business decisions and providing them with the proper tools to do our job smartly and safely,” she said.

Colonel Torres-Reyes, who chose the career path of becoming a physician when she was offered a full Air Force scholarship for college, said the Air Force is a rewarding career and she found being a medical doctor and now a colonel a great achievement.

She attributed her achievements to hardwork and refusal to give up in difficult times. She urged her staff to do their best in every endeavor so that they can become the best people they were meant to be.

“I believe all things are possible if one opens up to every opportunity and never gives up,” she said.

The new commander has a family history of military service and patriotism. Her uncle is a retired Marine three-star general and her husband and two brothers-in-law are also retired from the Marine Corps.

She said her achievements would not be complete without emphasizing the full support of her family, especially her husband.

“Looking back, I have enjoyed every single moment in the service,” she said. “I have a wonderful husband who also makes it all possible by supporting me 100 percent.”

The colonel earned a Bachelor of Science in biological science from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. She began her Air Force career in the Air Force Reserve as a distinguished graduate of Air Force ROTC. She entered active duty in 1986 as a captain after graduating from medical school at Howard University College of Medicine, Washington, D.C., and finishing an internship at Los Angeles County Hospital, Calif.

She completed her Masters of Public Health and served as Chief Resident in Occupational Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

The colonel earned her flight surgeon’s wings in 1986 after completing the Aerospace Medicine Primary Course at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. Two years later, she was named the Strategic Air Command Flight surgeon of the year.

During her 17-year Air Force career, Colonel Torres-Reyes has earned the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding unit Award with three oak leaf clusters and the National Defense Service Medal with a bronze star.

Transfer, from page 1

belongs to Iraqis,” Mr. Armitage said.

Negroponte’s absence does not mean the State Department will not have strong leadership at the new “super embassy” in Baghdad, Armitage said. Jim Jeffries has been named the embassy’s deputy chief of mission. He is a decorated Vietnam War combat veteran. Mr. Armitage said Mr. Jeffries “not only talks the talk, but has walked the walk,” and that he will be able to relate and communicate with coalition military leaders.

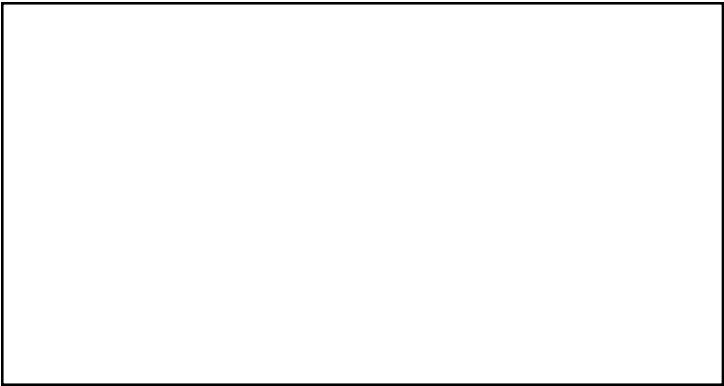
Armitage stressed that the process really has already started. Eleven of the 25 Iraqi ministries are autonomous right now, with two more joining those ranks this week. “That means their ministers make all the decisions, prepare the budgets, are responsible for the programs, etc.,” he said.

Mr. Wolfowitz told the senators that

U.S. service members have accomplished amazing things already in Iraq. He said that as the coalition prepares to return sovereignty, the military work is not done. “The enemy that was defeated in major combat a year ago continues to sow death and destruction in the effort to prevent the emergence of a new Iraq,” Mr. Wolfowitz said. “They and their terrorist allies from inside and outside Iraq understand that real defeat for them will come when Iraqis achieve the ability to govern themselves in freedom and to provide for the security of their own country.”

The secretary said the enemy realizes the next 18 months will be so critical to them “because that is the time it will take to stand up Iraqi security forces that are fully trained, equipped and organized.” That is also when Iraqis will elect a representative Iraqi government after 40 years of tyranny and abuse, he said.



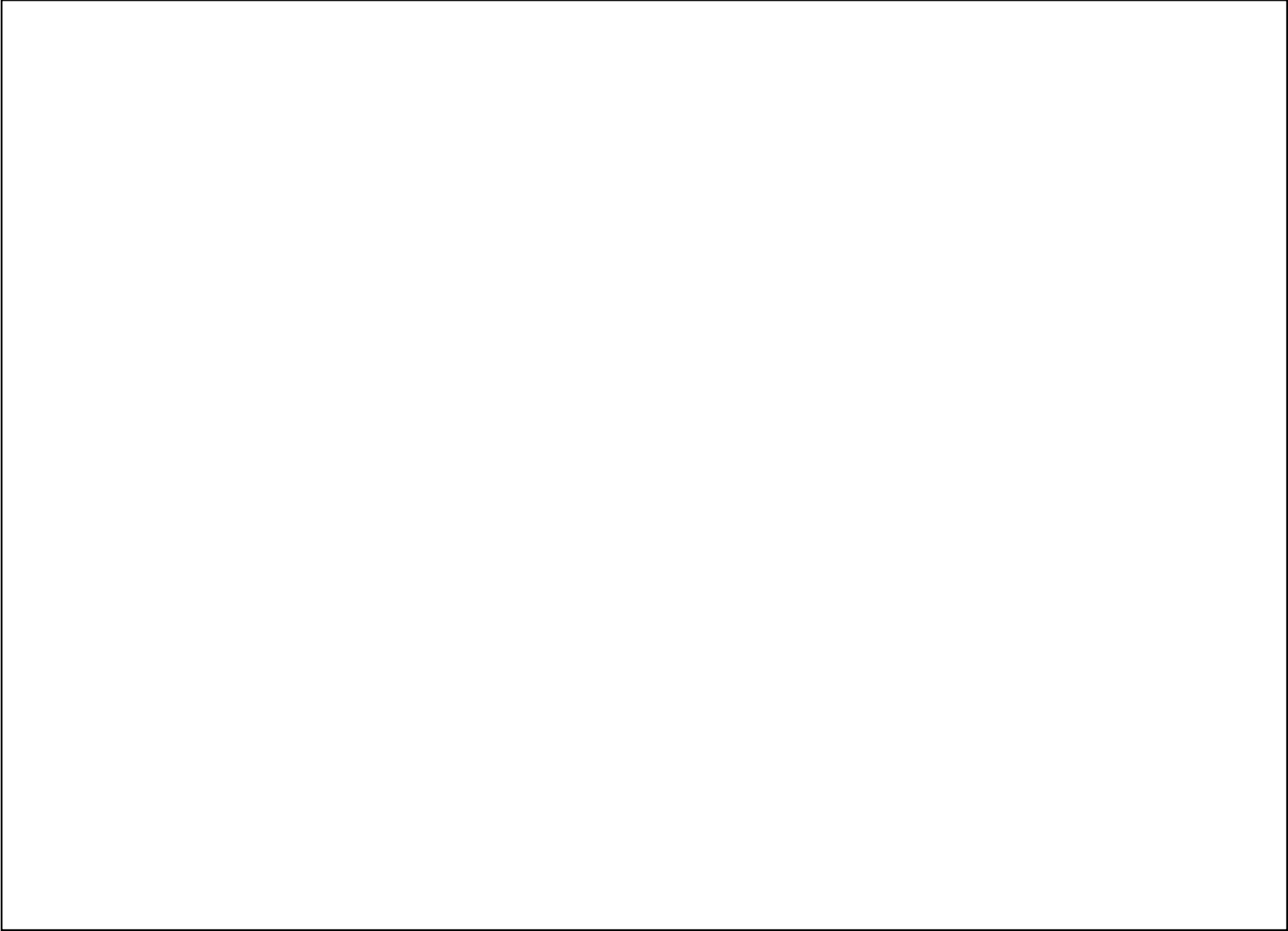


Kingpin ...

Staff Sgt. Michael Brown, 47th Communications Squadron, bowls a frame Wednesday at Cactus Lanes during a fund raiser sponsored by the Top 3 for the Air Force Enlisted Foundation. Thirty-six people showed up to help support the cause. The event raised about \$1,000.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill



DEFY program teaches kids about drugs, alcohol

Compiled from staff reports

The Drug Education For Youth graduation is set for 11 a.m. Saturday in the Chapel Hall Annex.

The graduation marks the end of a year-long program on drug education for 12 Laughlin youth.

“DEFY is a two-phase self-esteem building program that provides youth, ages 9-12, with the tools they need to resist drugs, gangs and alcohol,” said Anthony McKinney, 47th Medical Operations Squadron drug demand reduction program manager and DEFY director. “We give them the tools they need to handle peer pressure, self esteem, study skills and goal setting. We also put an emphasis on physical fitness.”

During Phase I of the DEFY program, children spent two weeks last summer at a day camp on Laughlin. The learned about self-management skills, drug resistance and information skills, general social skills and physical fit-

ness.

In Phase II instructors and volunteers held mentorship meeting with the children once a month. The class also took on educational field trips to San Antonio

“Most youth that participate in DEFY will gain a great deal from the people and the experience as a whole,” said Mr. McKinney. “They make lasting friendships and learn about themselves. Upon graduation, youth are matched with organizations that help them to meet the goals they have set for themselves in the program.”

Organizations the graduates are encouraged to take part in include: the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club in Del Rio.

The DEFY program is gearing up for another year and looking for volunteers to help with running the camp.

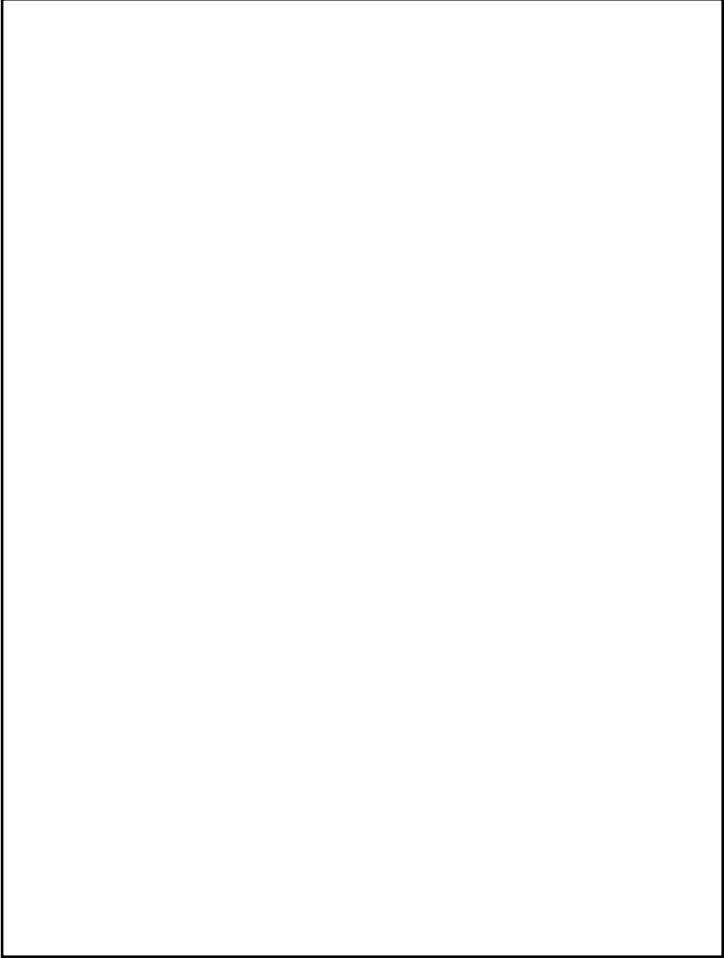
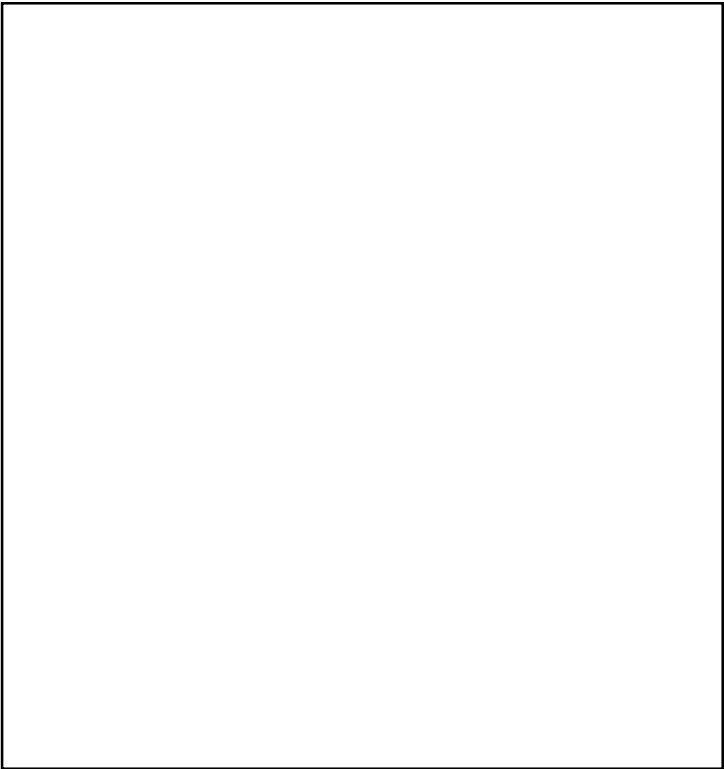
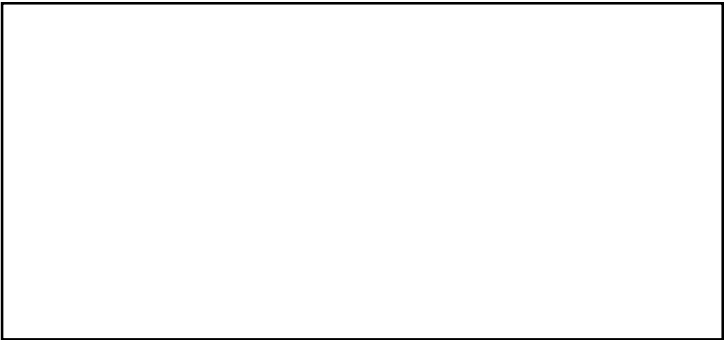
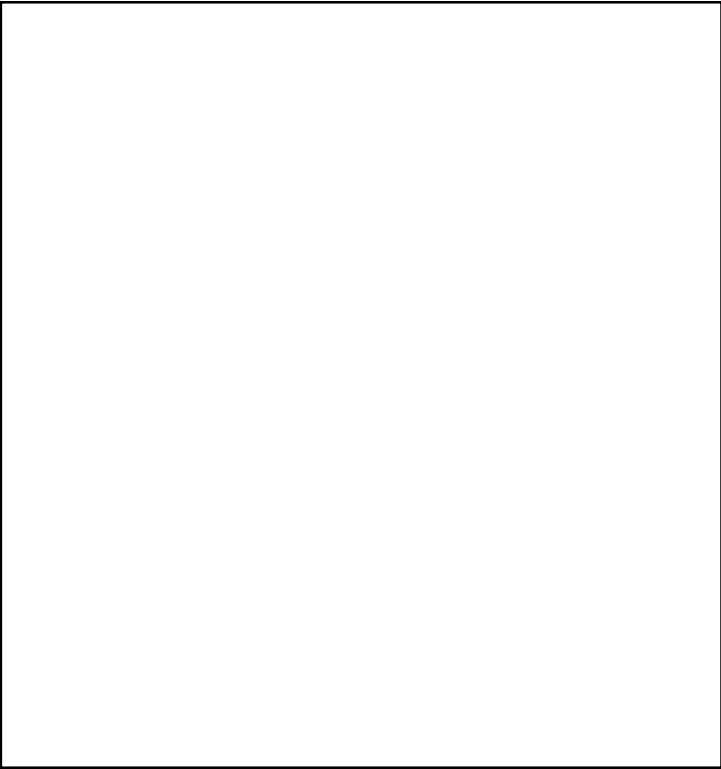
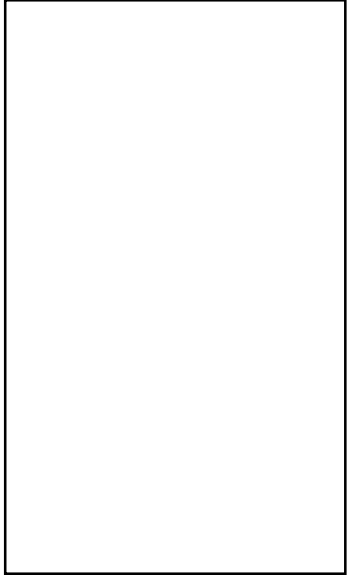
There are several requirements that have to be met by those who become mentors to the youth. They are required

to complete applications, receive supervisor’s approval, successfully complete background checks and go through an interview. Active duty mentors will also need to request permissive TDY. Mentors will receive required training on topics such as child abuse and neglect, safety, and communication skills.

The summer camp will be held from July 19-28 at Laughlin. Phase II of the program will begin Sept. 18. The first 25 applicants ages 9-12 will be accepted. Children must be Department of Defense dependents of active-duty military, reservists or federal civilian employees.

“Studies have shown if we can teach the dangers of drugs and alcohol to children at a young age the greater the chance they will be able to resist the temptation later in life,” said Mr. McKinney. “This program gives the students the skills and knowledge to do just that.”

For more information on DEFY, call 298-6422.





Graduation



SUPT Class 04-09 graduates



Capt. Kevin Parrish
F-16C
Luke AFB, Ariz.



Capt. Roy Recker
F-15E
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



1st Lt. Justin Harvey
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Scott Altenburg
C-130 (ANG)
Anchorage, Alaska



2nd Lt. Michael Armstrong
C-21
Peterson AFB, Colo.



2nd Lt. Patrick Arnn
T-6
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Brandi Barnard
C-5 (AFRES)
Lackland AFB, Texas



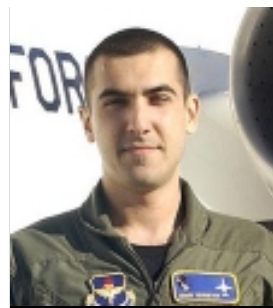
2nd Lt. Neils Barner
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Daniel Collette
T-38C
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Johnathan Eccles
C-5
Dover AFB, Del.



2nd Lt. Eugene Georgescu
C-21
Yokota AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Michael Gough
B-52 (AFRES)
Barksdale AFB, La.



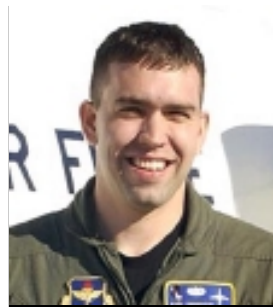
2nd Lt. Dennis Menjivar
C-21
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



2nd Lt. Mitchell Sherman
KC-135
RAF Mildenhall, England



2nd Lt. Zachary Stevens
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. David Thompson
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Norman Utech
C-130 (AFRES)
Niagara Falls, N.Y.



2nd Lt. Stephen Vance
KC-10
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Jonathon Waller
T-1
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Jay Welker
C-17
McGuire AFB, N.J.

Officers spouses' club awards 11 scholarships

Compiled by staff reports

The Laughlin Officers Spouses' Club awarded 11 \$1,000 scholarships to Laughlin members during a banquet at Club XL Tuesday.

The Honorable Dora Alcala, Del Rio mayor, was the guest speaker for the event.

The OSC raised \$8,000 through various fund-raisers. Wal-Mart Super Center donated \$1,000 and FirstCommand Education Foundation donated \$1,000.

Eligible for the scholar-

ships were military spouses, high school seniors and post high-school dependents, family members of Air Force active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired or deceased people, Department of Defense civilian employees and enlisted members in the grade of senior airmen and below.

The scholarship committee selected winners based on essays, community involvement and grade-point average.

Also winning a scholarship but not pictured is post high school dependent David Schimit.



Amy Farm
Military spouse



Breanne Fletcher
High school senior



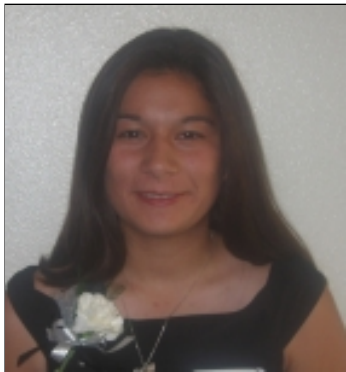
Ryan Moore
High school senior



Lance Rose
Military spouse



Genika Simon
High school senior



Vanessa Velazquez
High school senior



Kristina Collier
High school senior



Melissa Dudek
High school senior



Fiona Gentle
High school senior



Brandon Gunn
High school senior

Leaders show off Raptor, Joint Strike Fighter at air show

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – Air Force senior leaders took advantage of an open house here to tell reporters and visitors about the service’s newest fighters, the F/A-22 Raptor and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche held a press conference before a static display of both aircraft May 14 following opening ceremonies of the three-day Joint Service Open House.

“We’re way ahead of where people expected us to be,” Secretary Roche said of the Raptor’s initial operational test evaluation trials.

The secretary used the results of a recent combat simulation to describe the Raptor’s capabilities.

“We had five F-15 Eagles against one Raptor,” he said. “The

engagement was over in three minutes. None of the F-15s even saw the Raptor. The Raptor simply went down the line and, in simulation, took out all five of the F-15s.”

One reporter asked if the simulations were fair, since the F/A-22 pilots had previously flown the F-15.

“They never get into dogfights, so it makes no difference,” Secretary Roche said. “The fact that (the Raptor) flies very high, very stealthy and at (Mach 1.6) without afterburner makes it very tough for anybody else to have a fire control solution. The F-15s, with very good radars, were not able to pick up and understand where the F/A-22s were, and the F/A-22 was looking at the F-15s all the time.”

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley explained the situation further.

“Real combat is an interactive event,” he said. “You’re not looking

for a fair fight; you’re looking for the game to be called in the second inning, not having to play out all nine innings.”

Secretary Roche also addressed recent reports that some members of Congress are considering cutting funding for research and development programs.

“The cost (for the F/A-22) is coming down,” he said. “In fact, a year ago Dr. Marvin R. Sambur (assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition) was able to negotiate 21 planes for the price of 20.”

The secretary urged Congress to be patient with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

“There’s no reason to give up on the JSF; it’s only two-and-a-half years into an 11-year development program,” he said.

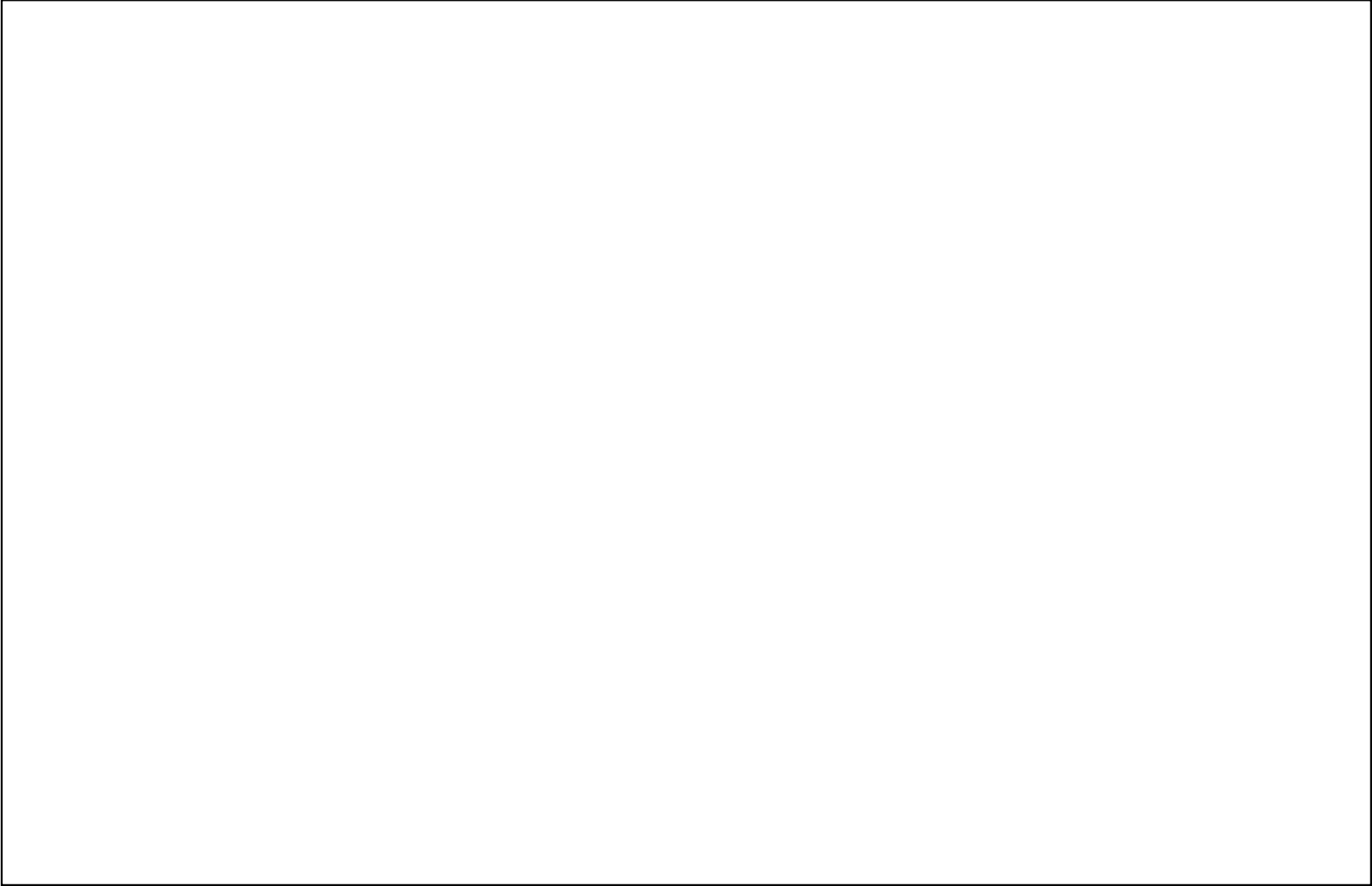
Secretary Roche said the Air Force is dedicated to its mission of supporting land forces.

The Air Force joined with the Marine Corps to develop a short takeoff and vertical landing variant of the joint-service, multinational fighter.

“We take this very seriously, this interface with the land component, be it with the Army, Marines or special operations,” General Moseley said. “The air dominance piece provides freedom to attack your enemy, but also the freedom from attack. This partnership will benefit all the combatant operations in a theater.”

Secretary Roche said the service has not yet determined the number of STOVL F-35s it will purchase, but expects to have that firmed up in time for the fiscal 2006 budget request.

“Our focus now is to be able to demonstrate to Congress that there is a STOVL version (of the JSF) that can work,” Secretary Roche said. “We also (believe) the F/A-22 and F-35 should be compliments, not substitutes.”





Ricky the Recruiter shakes a local girl's hand as he strolls through the mall during the Armed Forces Day celebration.



A local warrior poses for a photo at the 47th Security Forces camouflaged bunker display.

Laughlin celebrates Armed Forces Day with local citizens

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

The Del Rio community turned out to see an array of military displays and demonstrations Saturday during the 2004 Armed Forces Day Celebration at Plaza Del Sol Mall.

More than 20 Laughlin organizations and local recruiters provided a sampling of what the armed services offers during the day-long event.

Col. Keith Traster, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcala welcomed attendees as festivities began. Colonel Traster also administered the oath of enlistment to 11 Air Force and Marine Corps enlistees.

"Armed Forces Day honors the professional military men and women who serve this great nation," Colonel Traster said. "This event enabled us and the Del Rio community to recognize those who came before us and those who now are making sacrifices for our freedom."

During the day's activities, the 47th Security Forces Squadron drew crowds as the team performed two canine demonstrations.

Laughlin's fire department

smokehouse, fire truck and water hose were also big hits as spectators learned important aspects of fire safety.

Inside the mall, a military uniform modeling demonstration featured the variety of uniforms worn by Air Force members, including the new Air Force utility uniform that is currently being tested.

The Del Rio High School Air Force Junior ROTC also performed drill demonstrations.

In addition, organizations set up displays that ranged from cutaway jet engines and life support gear to medical information and communications equipment.

At the end of the day's celebration, judges chose three winning displays for best interactive, best informative and best overall.

The 47th Communications Squadron won best interactive for a video game they set up with their equipment.

The most informative display went to the 47th Medical Group for its food pyramid display and information.

Members of the 47th SFS earned best overall for their display that featured a bunker with sandbags and camouflage netting. The team also provided camouflage face painting and took pictures of people posing in the bunker.



Staff Sgt. Brian Tonnancour of the Laughlin Fire Department gives one young participant tips on how to use a fire truck water hose.

Senior
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Senior Airman Michael Osburn of the Laughlin Fire Department assists children out of the smokehouse, a demonstration set up to teach people how to get out of a burning house.



Sgt. Guillermo Gallegos of the Laughlin Health and Wellness Center provides information about healthy eating to a couple of Armed Forces Day participants.



Two local youths enjoy an aircraft simulator ride as 2nd Lt. Chad Norheim of the 47th Operations Group looks on to instruct.



Lt. Col. Robin Squellati, left, and Staff Sgt. Cassie Bone of the 47th Medical Operations Squadron, prepare a volunteer patient for a litter carry demonstration.



Senior Airman Marina Ramos, 47th Security Forces Squadron, puts camouflage paint onto the face of an Armed Forces Day participant.

Roadside bomb releases sarin gas in Baghdad

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A roadside bomb containing the nerve agent sarin – a substance Saddam Hussein’s regime insisted it had destroyed more than a decade ago – exploded near a U.S. military convoy traveling near Baghdad, coalition officials said Monday.

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy operations director for Multinational Force Iraq, told reporters in Baghdad a U.S. convoy found the 155-millimeter artillery round rigged as an improvised explosive device. The round detonated before the explosive ordnance team could render it inert, General Kimmitt said, spewing a small amount of sarin gas.

The release caused two soldiers to be treated for only “minor exposure,” General Kimmitt said, and the surrounding area needed no additional decontamination.

General Kimmitt said whoever rigged the device, likely from old regime stockpiles, probably did not realize that it contained the deadly

nerve agent sarin.

The effect of the explosion was minimal because the agent was used in a roadside bomb rather than being fired by an artillery piece, General Kimmitt said.

The type of round used, a “binary chemical projectile,” has two chambers that keep the chemical components inside separate until they are fired by an artillery piece, General Kimmitt explained. After firing, the rotation of the artillery shell in flight causes the barrier between the two substances to mix, creating sarin. The device releases the agent when it lands and explodes.

However, when the round is used in an improvised explosive device, General Kimmitt said, the chemicals don’t properly mix, so they produce only “very, very small traces” of sarin gas. “When you rig it as an IED, it just blows up and you have ... minor amounts (of the chemical) going in different directions,” he said. “It’s virtually ineffective as a chemical weapon.”

General Kimmitt said the incident does not pose a continuing threat.



Laughlin Salutes

First Term Airman’s Course graduates

- **Airman 1st Class Erik Salazar**, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Oscar Vargas**, 47th Communications Squadron

- **Airman Jennifer House**, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron
- **Airman Greg Schisler**, 47th CES
- **Airman Basic Nicole Coleman**, 47th Mission Support Group
- **Airman Basic Michael Klausing**, 47th Security Forces Squadron

Chapel
information



Catholic

- Monday - Friday: Mass, 12:05 p.m.
- Saturday: Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment
- Sunday: Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.
- Thursday: Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

- Wednesday: Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies' Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Sunday: General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

Chaplain Staff

- Wing chaplain: Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
- Senior Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA
- Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church
- Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

The *XLer*

2nd Lt. Margaret Eichner
47th Operations Support Squadron



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
Family: My wonderful husband Charlie
Time at Laughlin: One year, four months
Time in service: Almost two years
Greatest accomplishment: Realizing and accepting that I can't do anything on my own strength
Hobbies: Boating, fishing, wakeboarding, hiking, camping
Bad habit: Eating too much chocolate and peanut butter
Favorite movie: "A River Runs Through It"
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? The Proverbs 31 woman, she was amazing and I'd sure like to know how she balanced it all.

Shop the commissary...
the military's premier benefit

Interested in the Air Force?
Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.

Chlamydia: common STD may not show symptoms

By Senior Airman Erik Bell
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron public health technician

Chlamydia is spread by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which is the most common bacterial STD in the United States.

Not only is this bacteria transmitted sexually, but it may also be passed from an infected mother to her baby during childbirth.

In 2002 there were 834,555 cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but they estimate that there are 3 to 4 million cases in the United States that are unreported each year.

Chlamydia is known as a “silent” disease because many people become

infected with chlamydia and remain unaware of it due to lack of symptoms. In fact, as many as 75 percent of infected women and 50 percent of infected men never show symptoms.

When symptoms do occur, it is usually within one to three weeks after exposure. Symptoms experienced by women may include:

- Discharge from the vagina;
- Burning or pain when urinating, urinating more often than usual
- Bleeding between periods or after sex
- Cramps or pain in the lower abdomen, sometimes with fever or nausea

Symptoms experienced by men may include:

- Watery, white discard from penis or stained underwear

- Burning or pain when urinating
- Swollen or tender testicles

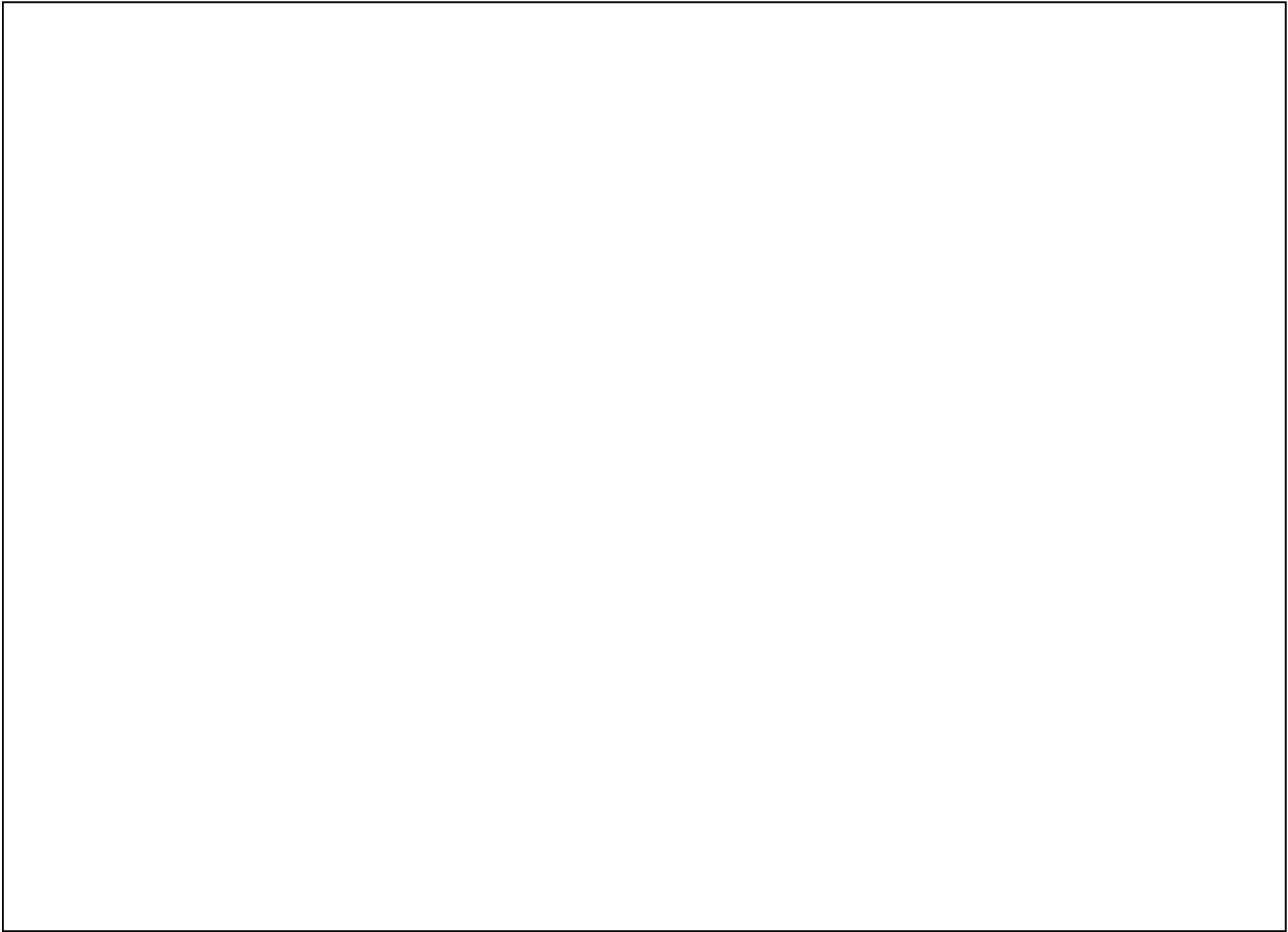
If left untreated, chlamydia could lead to more serious reproductive and health problems. In women it can cause pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. According to the CDC, women infected with chlamydia are also up to five times more likely to become infected with human immunodeficiency virus, if exposed.

To help prevent the serious consequences of chlamydia, the CDC recommends an annual screening test for all sexually active women age 25 years and younger. Screening is also recommended for persons with risk factors for chlamydia such as having a new sex partner or multiple sex partners.

The only way to completely prevent chlamydia or any other STD is abstinence from sex. For those choosing to be sexually active, the proper use of latex condoms decreases the potential for contracting any STD, including chlamydia.

Once identified chlamydia is easily treated with medications and follow-up exams.

Anyone who experiences symptoms of an STD or believes they have been exposed to an STD should contact a primary care manager. The base public health office is also available for information and offers free personal protection (condoms) and confidential counseling. Call public health at 298-6380 or visit the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov/std for more information.



Fit to Fight Warrior of the Week

Capt. Andrew Benson
85th Flying Training Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Fitness philosophy: As with all my E-flight brothers – you have to be fit to fight the good fight

Favorite healthy treat: Detour and One Way bars

Fitness assessment score: 100

Fitness tip: Maximize time in the gym – especially when free time is minimal

Fitness goals: Try to get at least two workouts a week while in training

Volleyball standings

(As of Thursday)

Western Conference

Team	W-L
CCS	9-1
MED	7-3
CES	5-5
MSS/Wing	2-8
SFS	0-9

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
87th	9-0
84/85th	6-3
86th	5-4
OSS	3-6

Fitness Fact:

Did You Know? The carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke is absorbed by red blood cells preventing them from picking up the oxygen that they should be carrying to your body's muscles. That same carbon monoxide remains attached to the red blood cells for almost a day. So, next time you are huffing and puffing up those stairs, just remember that cigarette that you had ... yesterday!

